

but they also surveyed for timber, water supply, grazing possibilities, and the altitude of the mountain peaks.<sup>2</sup>

One such exploration was undertaken by a company composed of Robert and William Gardner and J. D. Parks. In September of 1852 they followed up the Weber River to its headwaters and from thence down the Provo River looking for timber and investigating the river for the purpose of floating logs down to the central settlements. William Gardner kept an account of their travels, and his description of the Provo Valley was the chief factor in opening up the region six years later. After describing the great amount of timber in the upper valleys of the Weber and Provo Rivers, he tells of following the road some twelve or fifteen miles down the Provo River to a valley seven by ten miles in extent with two large streams coming from the south into it.

Our attention was attracted by mounds about the size of a coal pit to one that appeared to be about a mile off, and which we judged to be about a quarter of a mile across and sixty feet high. They all are about the shape of a coal pit, perfectly hollow. We supposed them to be a volcano as the surface of the ground for some miles was covered with this light stone the same as the mounds, but finding some of them full of water we concluded that the formation was made by the water.<sup>3</sup>

After exploring this now famous landmark and noting that the valley could be easily irrigated they passed on to within about five miles of the mouth of the Provo Canyon. Gardner notes that the distance from their camp to the valley that connected the Provo and Weber Rivers was about twenty-five or thirty miles and a road could easily be built all the way. His description of the canyon and the river are especially significant.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., p. 32.

<sup>3</sup>Journal History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, MSS, (L. D. S. Historian's Office Library, Salt Lake City, Utah), September 13, 1852. Hereafter cited as Journal History.

We continued the journey down to Utah Valley and noticed two large streams coming in on the south and one on the north. The last ten miles travel was pretty rough, but a good road could be built without much trouble by cutting into the side hill at different points, only loose rock being in the way and the Provo River is as handsome a stream for floating purposes as could be desired, it is not so rapid as the Weber River and the channel is deeper, but it's pretty rough at the mouth of the canyon, which is the best canyon for a road that I have ever seen, having fine narrow valleys with rich soil and good pasture. At the present time I think that there is more water in this river than in the Weber River. A continuation of settlements from the mouth of the Weber around to the mouth of the Provo, a distance of about 120 miles, could easily be made. From the mouth of the Weber to the headwaters of the same the distance must be about 100 miles. Good roads could be made without much expense except the last ten miles and the streams can also be utilized pretty well for floating down timber.<sup>4</sup>

This was not the first time the region had been visited. Gardner called the valley of the cones William's Valley because a party of that name had camped there some five years before.<sup>5</sup> The significance of the Gardner expedition is that it was undertaken with the intent to explore the valley for timber and possible colonization. The suggestions he made were followed when the time came to open up the area.

The settlement of Utah Valley preceded that of Provo Valley and most of the early settlers in Provo Valley were originally residents of the former. The first settlers to Provo were sent out as early as April 1849.<sup>6</sup> By 1852 such settlements as Lehi, Fort Alpine,

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>Ibid.

<sup>6</sup>Ray Colton, "A Historical Study of the Exploration of Utah Valley and the True Story of Fort Utah," (Unpublished Master's thesis, Dept. of History, Brigham Young University, 1935), p. 56.



Pleasant Grove, Springville, Spanish Fork, Payson, and Santaquin were growing communities in and near Utah Valley.<sup>7</sup> Thus, by the time the first settlements in Provo Valley were made, communities in the surrounding region were well established.

The settlements in Provo Valley were typical of Latter-day Saint settlements throughout the Great Basin, and it would therefore seem necessary to outline briefly the role of the Mormon Church in Utah at this time.

The migration of the Mormons to Mexican territory had been under the direction of the Church, and it was only natural that the Church should continue the supervision of colonization and settlement of the pioneers. Brigham Young, as president of the Church, together with the Council of the Twelve Apostles, administered affairs until the necessary civil and ecclesiastical machinery could be established for the new-born communities. The Church leaders continued to plant colonies long after the organization of Utah as a United States territory in 1850.

The groups who went out were usually provided with a bishop as the leader. In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints the bishop is the head of an ecclesiastical unit known as a ward. The ward in turn is composed of family groups living in close proximity to one another. All over Utah, cities were built, lands divided off to the people, roads and bridges made, water ditches cut, and land irrigated and society governed under the immediate control of the bishops.<sup>8</sup> The bishop also had judicial functions and early in Utah history adjusted disputes among Church members and in some cases among non-members.

By the time the first settlements were made in what was later to be Wasatch County, Utah had been made a

<sup>7</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 155.

<sup>8</sup>Hunter, *op. cit.*, p. 366: "By 1878 some 358 colonies had been established under this system."

territory. A rather turbulent period followed in which some of the federal territorial appointees, seeking political advantage, made charges of treason and other crimes against the Mormons in Utah. Finally, in 1857 President Buchanan, fearful of the linkage of the Mormon practice of polygamy with the Democratic Party's issue of popular sovereignty, appointed Alfred Cumming as governor of Utah Territory and sent a *posse comitatus* consisting of United States' troops to see that he reached his destination.

Brigham Young, distrustful of the motives for sending such a force, prepared the Saints for the defense of their lives and liberties by calling out the Utah militia and ordering an evacuation of the members living in the Salt Lake Valley. It was only under the skillful mediation of Thomas L. Kane that an understanding was reached by which Governor Cumming entered Salt Lake City while the body of troops passed through to Cedar Valley some thirty-six miles south of Salt Lake City, where they established Camp Floyd early in July of 1858.

It is at this point that the series of events which culminated in the development of Provo Valley and the establishment of Wasatch County began.

were not long in following, and soon enough families had settled along the creek to establish the nuclei for two communities known as the upper and lower settlements.

The upper settlement was first settled by Peter Shirts, John and Ephraim Hanks, and a Mr. Riggs in 1860.<sup>3</sup> It was later named Mound City because of the numerous limestone formations in the region. A number of hot water springs flow from the bench land around upper Snake Creek, and over a period of many years they have deposited limestone sufficient to form a crust several inches thick on much of the surrounding land. The springs have also built up a number of good-sized limestone mounds at the point where they flow from the ground. The enterprising people in the valley cleared much of the porous limestone, known as pot rock, from the ground in order to farm. It was then piled up for fences or shaped for building material and many prominent and substantial buildings were made from it. The hot water in turn provided the basis for commercial warm water swimming activities and health resorts.

The growth of the upper and lower settlements required some sort of organization to coordinate the activity of the various families. In both places, as in other Latter-day Saint pioneer communities too small for organization into a ward, this was supplied originally by a presiding elder of the Church who, when sustained by the Church members, exercised political, judicial, military, and religious authority. In 1862 Sidney Epperson was appointed presiding elder over the upper settlement with John Fausett and Samuel Thompson as his counselors. By 1864 the lower settlement included some twenty families, and David Van Wagonen was appointed as the presiding elder there.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup>Simon Epperson, *Sidney Epperson Pioneer* (Heber, Utah: 1927), p. 20.

<sup>4</sup>*Ibid.*

The settlements continued to grow independently until Indian trouble threatened the settlers in 1866. In their exposed positions all along the creek the families were extremely vulnerable to the type of raid made by the Indians. The Church leaders advised them to join together and build a fort for their mutual protection. Tradition states that the question of the fort's location was a warm issue between the residents of both settlements. Loyal citizens of Mound City were extremely reluctant to leave the obvious virtues of their high surroundings to join the lower settlement, and the equally patriotic stalwarts of the lower settlement were just as naturally inclined to reject the offer to join the upper settlement. Finally, as a result of compromise, they built the fort midway between the two, and thus the present town of Midway got its name and location.

By mid-summer of 1866 seventy-five cabins stood on the fort line.<sup>5</sup> Some of them were moved from the old settlements. The fort was never attacked, which fact itself is a tribute to the ability of the pioneers to cooperate in overcoming common difficulties.

In 1868 the families began to move out of the fort line into homes on the present Midway townsite, and the old fort line formed the public square for the new town.

#### CHARLESTON

Early in the history of the county the southern end of Provo Valley was the scene of cattle raising. A year before the great rush of settlement in 1859 ranches such as that of George Bean, Aaron Daniels, and Aaron Decker were spread out along the rich grassland of the Provo River bottoms. With the coming of the first farming settlers, activity in the Charleston region centered about ranching with some raising of grain. George Noaks and

<sup>5</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 45.



William Manning were among the first settlers in that section of the valley.<sup>6</sup> Alex Wilkens also had a ranch there. Wilkens lived in Provo, but Charles Shelton lived



Charleston and surrounding area

on the ranch and sold goods for Wilkens to the valley settlers in the summer and fall of 1861.<sup>7</sup>

One early account states that Charleston was named for Charles Shelton. A varying account is given by William Winterton.

John C. Parcell and I herded sheep for James Bean and John Turner on and around the hills later owned by William Wright. James Herbert, Mr. Parcell's stepson, who carried mail by horseback once or twice a week from Provo to Heber, used to stop at Parcell's cabin to feed and rest his horse. One

<sup>6</sup>Bertha Edwards, "History of Charleston," MSS, (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber, Utah, 1950).

<sup>7</sup>Wasatch Wave, December 14, 1889.

day he said: "If you would give me a name for this place I could bring your mail to you." We mentioned several, but decided Charleston was the one we liked best.<sup>8</sup>

John Watkins of Midway served as the presiding elder over the Charleston branch during the initial stages of settlement. In 1862 Nymphus C. Murdock moved to Charleston and became the first bishop. He bought out the claim of George Bean and established his family on what came to be known in Charleston as the bishop's ranch.<sup>9</sup>

Early settlers on the bench land in Charleston surveyed an irrigation canal with a shotgun barrel and brought water that made community settlement possible.<sup>10</sup> An agricultural community soon developed. A townsite was laid out, and soon various businesses were established including the Charleston Co-op, a millinery, a butcher shop, and a creamery. In 1899 the town of Charleston was incorporated with John M. Ritchie as president.

#### DANIELS

About three miles south of Heber is the town of Daniels. Its name is derived from the creek named for Aaron Daniels, one of the first settlers in the valley. Daniels is a farming community, and its history is intimately connected with irrigation. Edward Buys was the first settler on the creek where the present community now is, and at one time the town was named Buysville for him. In 1903 the settlement on the eastern side of the creek known as Daniels Creek was joined to

<sup>8</sup>The Journal of William Winterton, MSS, (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber, Utah, 1942).

<sup>9</sup>Wasatch Wave, December 21, 1906, p. 10.

<sup>10</sup>The Journal of William Winterton, p. 3.



nel which later gave access to the Park Utah Mine—the largest mine in Wasatch County.<sup>13</sup>

The Park Utah mine was to come into being in 1916 when George W. Lambourne and George D. Blood would combine forces to develop holdings east of the Ontario mine. Permission was to be secured to work through the Ontario drain tunnel, and the venture would develop so successfully that by 1922 the Park Utah mine would be producing 6,000 tons of lead, silver, and zinc ore per month, worth fifty dollars a ton.<sup>14</sup>

Later development would see the consolidation of the Park Utah, Daly Judge, and Ontario mining companies into the Park Utah Consolidated Mines Company in 1925.<sup>15</sup> These mines would, in the course of time, greatly enrich Wasatch County and its inhabitants, who would work in the mines and furnish it with supplies.

The mining fever accompanying the rich strikes in the Park City area was also felt on the other side of the mountain range, especially in the Snake Creek area of the Provo Valley. Here many claims were staked out by the Mormon pioneer settlers who originally came to the valley for farming and stock raising. These settlers formed the Snake Creek mining district in May of 1870.<sup>16</sup>

To the Snake Creek district came a motley group of mining enthusiasts, and the nearby town of Midway experienced a mining boom at the turn of the century. Many claims were staked out up and down Snake Creek Canyon, and men discussed the relative merits of such holdings as the Steamboat property, Lions, Wide West,

<sup>13</sup>Emmett K. Olson, "Mining Methods of Park Utah Consolidated Mines Company" (Unpublished Master's thesis, University of Utah, 1950), p. 4.

<sup>14</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 5.

<sup>15</sup>Olsen, *op. cit.*, p. 4.

<sup>16</sup>By Laws of the Snake Creek Mining District, (Heber 1930), p. 1.

Heber City, Big Four, Balsam Grove, Bogan Property, Lone Pine, Southern Tier, St. Louis Vassar, Wolverine, Success, the Tattersal Property, and Boulder Basin.<sup>17</sup>

Some rich ore was found, and in the case of the Southern Tier, \$80,000 worth was reportedly shipped to Park City.<sup>18</sup> In general, however, the ore deposits proved pockety and spotty; and this, coupled with the water problem so prevalent in the region round about, brought a disappointing end to the hopes of those who staked out the area.

Despite the disappointment of the many mining interests, the boom was of real significance to Midway. It meant a period of prosperity comparable to that prompted earlier by the stage coach contract and the building of the railroad through Utah. Many a family income was augmented by the work in the mines. It was also a period of romance and adventure. The usual topics of daily discussion gave way to mining speculations, the fortunes to be made and spent, the diggings at Bonanza Flat, and the new arrivals at the Aggie O'Neil Hotel. Some of the wealthy speculators from the East even brought their libraries with them and bestowed them on a culture hungry people when they left.<sup>19</sup>

Mining activity benefited Wasatch County in many ways. It furnished much needed work, both in the mines and related activities such as lumbering and farming, and it furnished considerable revenue for many county projects and responsibilities.

#### LUMBERING

When William Gardner made his report to Brigham Young of the exploration of the Provo and Weber river valleys he told of the plentiful supply of timber there.

<sup>17</sup>*Wasatch Wave*, December 21, 1906.

<sup>18</sup>Emily Coleman, interview, 1952.

<sup>19</sup>Lethe Tatge, interview, 1952.

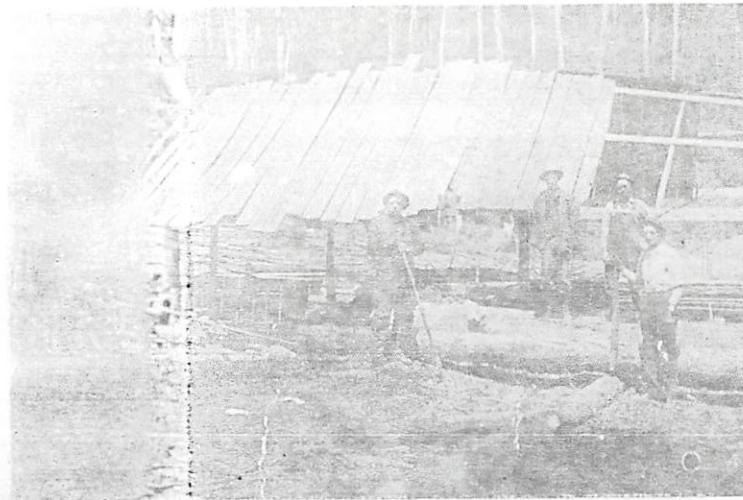


Indeed, one of Brigham Young's chief purposes in building the Provo Canyon road was to make this timber readily available.<sup>20</sup> In this region were millions of board feet of marketable saw timber. In addition to the main stands of Douglas fir and Engelman spruce there were vast stands of aspen and scattered stands of white and alpine fir, all of which were heavily logged as the region was opened.

Saw mills began to spring forth all over the valley as soon as the settlers arrived. In the winter of 1859-60 William Meek and James Adams with companions went up Center Creek Canyon and got out timber for a saw mill. This was the pioneer saw mill in the Provo Valley, and it began turning out lumber in the fall of 1860.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>20</sup> *Journal History*, June 6, 1858, p. 2.

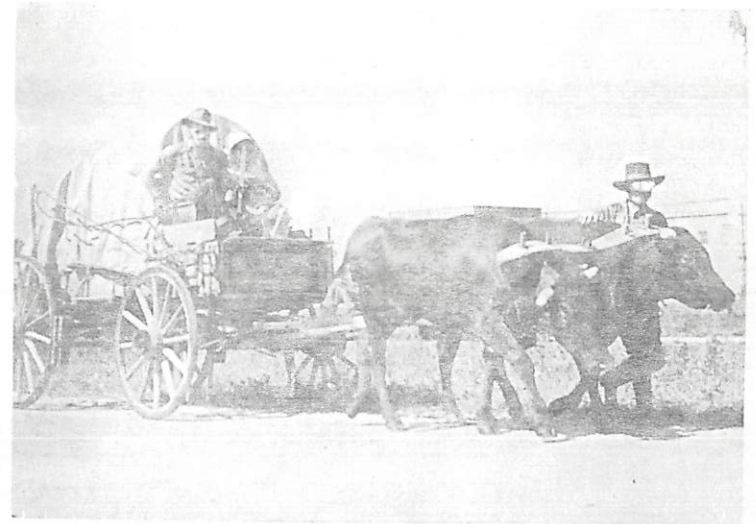
<sup>21</sup> Crook, "History of Wasatch County," *op. cit.*, p. 7.



Thacker's early sawmill: Charles Thacker standing center and John M. Thacker right rear.

Next was Peter Shirts with a mill on Snake Creek, followed by the Lake Creek Mills of Nicol and Alexander, the Carroll mill in Heber, and the Watkins mill on Deer Creek. Other mills were built by Forman on Daniel Creek, Henry Coleman on the lower Snake Creek, and McGuire, Turner and Campbell mills on the South Fork of Provo River.

The mills were first run with water power from the creeks but later steam was introduced. Logging was done with oxen, and it would be difficult to overestimate the importance of these animals in the pioneering venture. They were particularly valuable in lumbering. Here they were preferred even over horses. They were steady and not easily excited. Where horses, when pulling a heavy load would saw back and forth or would balk, the oxen would steady down and pull harder and harder. Oxen could get over the logs easier and could go



Freighting by oxen



through loose mud and snow where horses would bog down. Oxen were not as expensive as horses since they did not require grain for feed.

Dave Thacker reports an experience of Homer

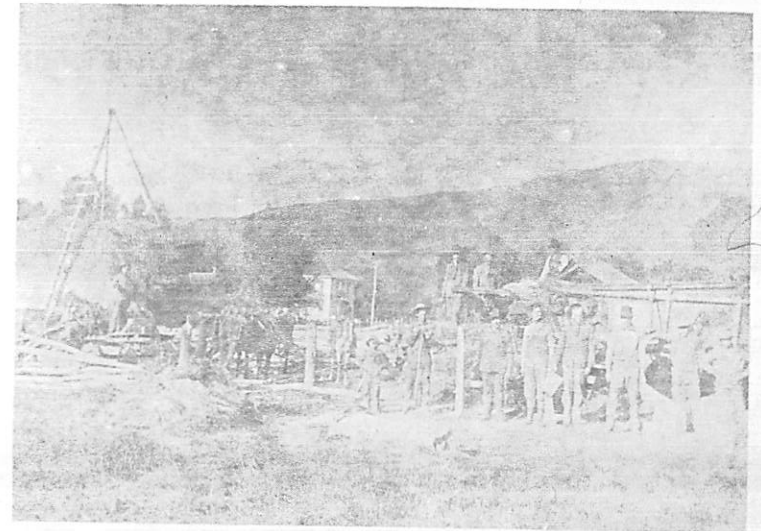


Early plastering crew: Alfred Duke, Robert McKnight, Teenie Duke, Joe Duke, John Duke, Jr. Teenie Duke was paper hanging,

Fraughton's which illustrates how well oxen could be handled. Fraughton was logging for one of the mills in the hollow. He was digging around a log to work a chain under it when the log rolled on his leg. He knew his leg would be severely injured if the log were not rolled off the same way. By working until he had a roll hitch on the log he was able, even in his lying position, to direct the oxen verbally in removing the log without injury to his leg.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup>Julia Anderson, "Lumbering in Wasatch County," MSS, (Daughters of Utah Pioneers Historical Collection, Heber, 1952), p. 13.

Life was hard at the lumber camps both for owner and laborers. The mill owner's family usually lived right at the mill and his wife or older daughters did the cooking for the crews.



Threshing crew in Midway

Sawed lumber was used as building material in the valley or shipped to some of the central Utah settlements. When mining activity in the Park City region began much of the lumber was shipped there for use in the mines. William Gardner, the early Mormon explorer of the valley, thought that timbers could be floated down the Provo River to the market in Provo City, but this did not prove practical.

Two special lumbering activities in the county were the manufacture of shingles from Engelmann spruce and excelsior packing from quaking aspen.

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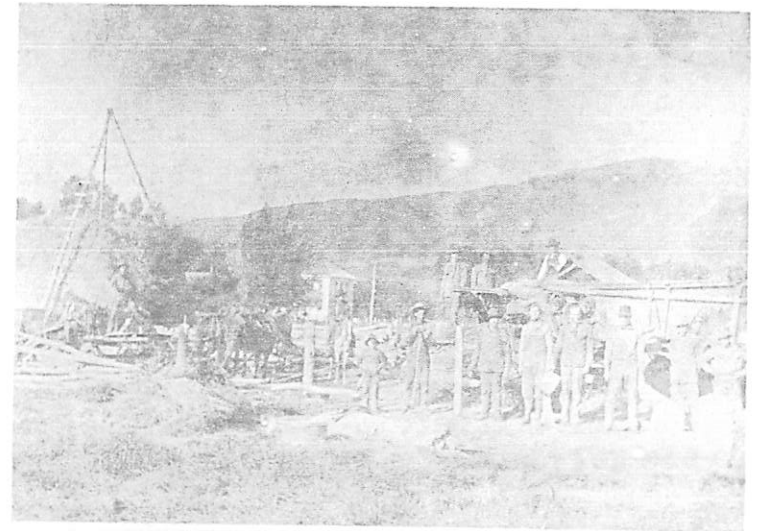


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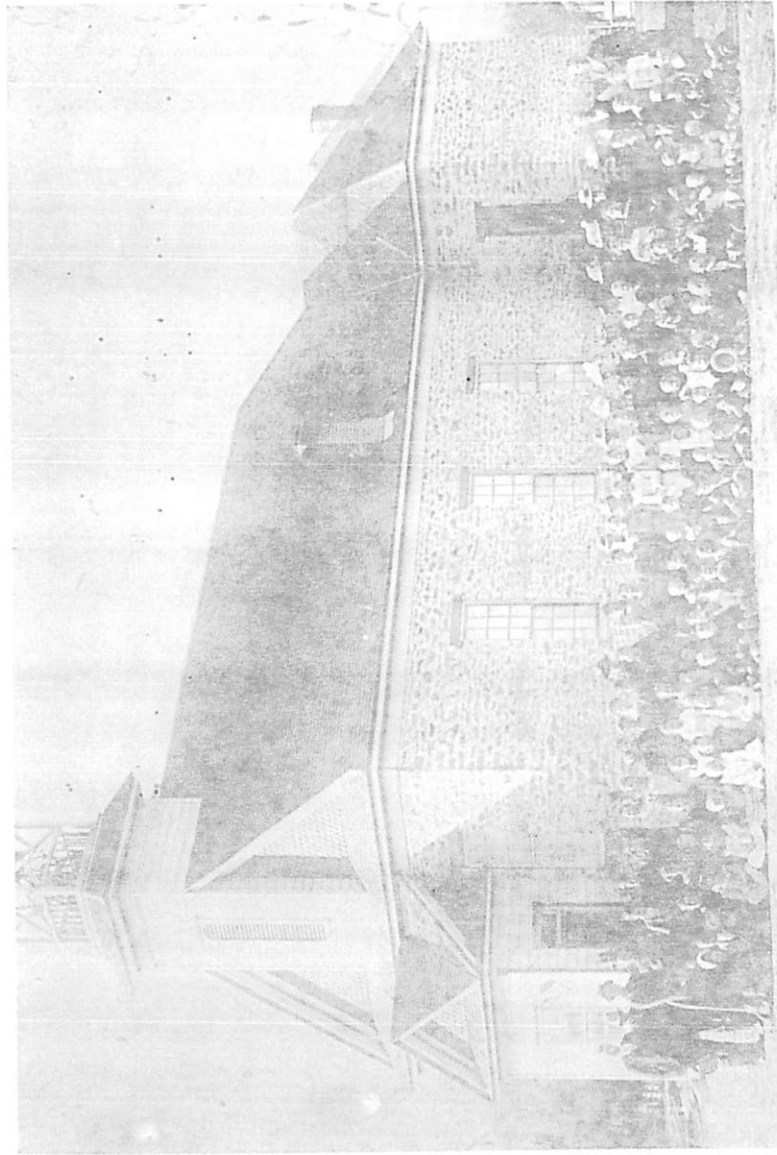


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Charleston School and Church. Example of early Pot-rock construction.

Shingle mills were operated by Charles Thacker, John Campbell, Mr. Henry S. Alexander, and Herbert Clegg. Shingle timber had to be clear from knots, and straight grained. After the logs had been cleared they were hauled to the mill and there sawed by a dragsaw into sixteen-inch blocks. Once the blocks were prepared they were quartered with an ax and the heart wood taken out and placed in a steam box overnight to soften and draw out the sap so that the shingles would not split in use.

After softening to the consistency of cheese, the shingles were cut with a knife on a frame run by steam power. A man stood at a bench feeding the hot blocks to the knife, twisting the blocks back and forth and turning them over to keep the shingles even while forming the thick and thin ends. Then girls, who sat or kneeled on sacks filled with sawdust, placed the shingles in bunches of 250 each. A good buncher could bunch about 10,000 shingles a day at ten cents per thousand. For this dollar a day she worked from dawn until late at night, often by the light of a bonfire.<sup>23</sup> These shingles lasted 50 years.

Lumbering is still an important industry in the county. The major change from pioneer days has been the establishment of national forests resulting in the regulation of timber cutting.

#### TRAPPING

Among the early trappers in Provo Valley was a twelve year old boy, Eph Nelson, who trapped musk rats along the Provo River, the pelts from which he sold to A. Hatch and Co. for from three to five cents per pelt. In those early days there were no restrictions against fishing so he also caught fish which he took to Park City

<sup>23</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 14.



to scale these peaks were Thomas Broderic, Robert and Archibald Gardner in the year 1850. The three men started out one morning, carrying only a light lunch as they expected to reach the top easily within a few hours. But the trip was not so easy as they thought and the altitude tired the men. Thomas Broderic was the only one to reach the very top. Archibald got to within a rod of the top and Robert within 200 rods. They decided to make their descent by way of Mill Creek as they were sure it would not be as precipitous as Big Cottonwood had been. In this they were wrong, as they found it even more difficult. They became extremely hungry, nearly exhausted and their clothes were in tatters. Selecting the best clothes from among them, one of the men put on the clothing, pinning the torn places together with hawthorns. He then made his way to the first farmhouse where he was given food and clothing and returned to the other explorers.

Weber and Provo Rivers—In the year 1851, Brigham Young called a party of men to explore the Weber River to its source and to follow the Provo River to the valley. The purpose of this was to explore the country to determine the amount of timber and grazing land and to report anything that might prove of service to the coming pioneers. The men selected were the three Gardner brothers, Archibald, Robert and William; also James Mangum, Joseph Adair and James Craig. Dens of rattlesnakes annoyed them—there were beaver making dams and felling trees. Even the old brown bear peered at them through the pines as they made their way up to the "granddaddy country."

Regina Gardner Erickson

*Heart Throbs of the West, Vol 12: 232*

## RANCHING IN THE EARLY DAYS

Not many years had passed from the time of the arrival of the first pioneers that the land adjacent to the cities and in surrounding valleys had been occupied. If the people who came in the later years of pioneering, as well as children of the first pioneers, desired to follow ranching, farming or the raising of livestock for a livelihood, they were forced to seek land near the mountains, in canyons and vales or in unexplored places. Among these people were a class who loved mountain living. They established homes and became well-to-do citizens through their labors in the mountains. The mountain man, sometimes, was the result of the pioneer boy who herded his father's few cows from the time he was old enough to handle stock. Some of these people loved the loneliness and independence of isolated places.

Those first pioneers feared to make their homes in the mountains because of the Indians who had been driven from their valley homes and streams and had gone to live in the mountains. Again those who wished to live there had to have a knowledge of wild animals so prevalent in the hills. During the first years they had no fear of desperadoes, but, in later years they had to learn to protect themselves and their stock from these lawless marauders.

The first ranches we will consider in this chapter will be those in and around Salt Lake Valley.

## RANCHING ON ANTELOPE ISLAND

The name of Briant Stringham deserves a place in the history of Antelope Island Ranch, located in Great Salt Lake. For sixteen years it occupied a large part of his life and some of the most pleasant days of his life were spent upon this island. According to record, the first white man to live there was an old mountaineer called Daddy Stump. After him came Fielding Garr, who had charge of the Church stock. Following his death in 1855 came Briant Stringham. The Island is about eighteen miles in length and from four to six miles in width. The east side is comparatively smooth; while the west side is rugged.

In the early days the Island was considered one of the most desirable pleasure resorts and many happy hours were spent there by President Brigham Young and his intimate associates. On one occasion during a three-day visit of the President, some of the most noted horsemen in the



# UTAH

## THE STORY OF HER PEOPLE

1540-1947

*A Centennial History of Utah*

By

MILTON R. HUNTER, Ph.D.



THE DESERT NEWS-PRESS  
29 RICHARDS STREET  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH  
1946





## Chapter 31

## ESTABLISHING COLONIES

## THE COLONIZING PLAN

Governor Brigham Young announced to the people the plan of colonization that he and his associates intended to put into operation. He stated:

"As the Saints gather here and get strong enough to possess the land, God will temper the climate and we shall build a city and a temple to the Most High God in this place. We will extend our settlements to the east and west, to the north and to the south, and we will build towns and cities by the hundreds, and thousands of Saints will gather in from the nations of the earth. This will become the great highway of nations."

Looking from our vantage point after nearly one hundred years have passed, it is possible for us to view the results of the Mormon pioneers' plan of land settlement. Did they succeed in accomplishing their dream?

## SETTLEMENT OF SALT LAKE VALLEY

As has been pointed out, the opening of the American frontier by the Mormons in Utah began with the settlement of Salt Lake City in 1847. Part of the colonists that arrived that year left the pioneer camp during the fall with their livestock in search of pastureage. Several groups located on canyon streams, some as far as fifteen miles north and others a comparable distance south of the parent colony. Each group of frontiersmen built themselves houses which served as the nuclei for several towns which later became the major settlements in the valley.

The first of these towns to be established was Bountiful. Perrigrine Sessions arrived in the Great Salt Lake Valley on September 26, 1847. Three days later, in company with Samuel Brown, he camped on the site where Bountiful now stands. They had brought with them about 300 head of cattle. After building a small

house, Sessions brought part of his family to Bountiful in December. Five other families joined them the following spring. Thus Bountiful, a city situated about ten miles north of Salt Lake City and lying between the Wasatch Mountains and the Great Salt Lake, has the distinction of being the second settlement established in Utah by the Mormons.

A little later the same fall, Hector C. Haight arrived on the creek seven miles farther north in Davis County with his cattle. He herded them near the present site of Farmington throughout the winter of 1847-1848. He dwelt in a tent at first but early in 1848 Haight and his son built a cabin. Other settlers joined them in the fall. From that time forward Farmington was considered a colony.

Early in 1849, Samuel Oliver Holmes purchased a small cabin from a trapper about a mile southwest of the present town of Kaysville. He planted and raised a crop that year. The following spring William Kay—the man after whom the town was named—accompanied by others, settled near Holmes' claim, forming a nucleus for a city.

Settlers also located on a creek between Farmington and Bountiful in the spring of 1849. They called their town Centerville. Thus within a little over a year after the arrival of the pioneers in the Salt Lake Valley four thriving settlements had been established on the rich table-lands of Davis County north of Salt Lake City. All of them became important Utah communities.

While settlers were locating north of Salt Lake, others were also spreading out into the valley in other directions. A number of families led by John Holladay left the fort at Salt Lake in the spring of 1848 and went in search of suitable places for farms. They located on Big Cottonwood Creek about nine miles southeast of the center of the Mormon Mecca. Their colony was at first called Holladay's Settlement and later Big Cottonwood. That same spring other colonists settled at Mill Creek.

John Neff located a mill about two miles below the mouth of the canyon subsequently named Mill Creek early in the spring of 1848. The Gardner family, includ-



Gentiles would increase, as Utah had become a part of the United States by the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848.

It seemed necessary, therefore, to provide a government that would prove satisfactory to both Mormons and non-Mormons, and, at the same time, one that would be acknowledged and recognized by the Government of the United States. "True to the character of typical frontiersmen, independent of Congress, and as other groups of people had done," the founders of Utah set about to establish such a government.

On February 1, 1849, Brigham Young issued a call for a convention to meet in Salt Lake to consider the political needs of the people. The document bore the signature of many of the prominent citizens of Utah. It was addressed to all the citizens of that portion of Upper California lying east of the Sierra Nevada.

A considerable number of the inhabitants responded to the call and assembled at Salt Lake early in March, 1849. The members of the convention decided to petition Congress for statehood and to organize, pending Congressional action upon the petition, a provisional government.

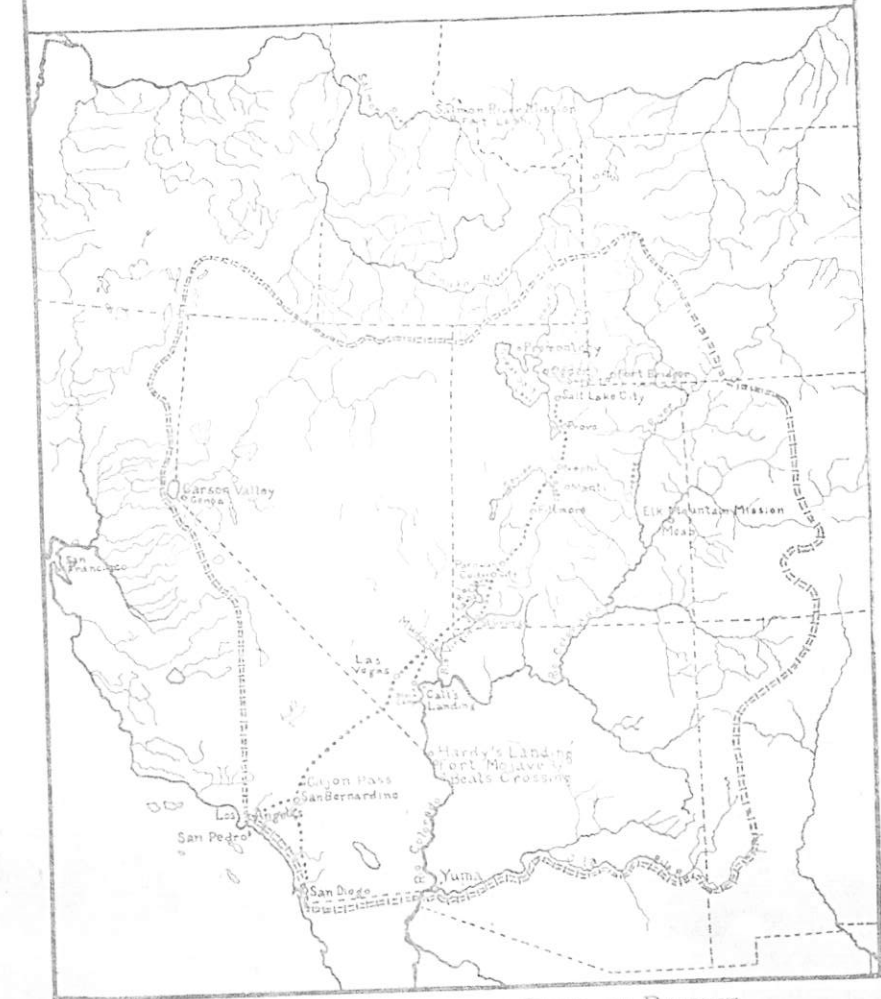
The name chosen for the new state was "Deseret," a term used in the Book of Mormon, meaning honeybee. To the pioneers, this name was expressive of their industry and cooperative efforts to reclaim the desert and build a new state.

A committee, with Albert Carrington as chairman, was appointed to draft a constitution for the "temporary State of Deseret." On March 8, 9, and 10, the convention considered the report of the committee. After careful deliberation the constitution was adopted without a dissenting vote.

#### ENORMOUS SIZE OF DESERET

The boundary lines of Deseret as outlined by its constitution inclosed an exceedingly extensive territory. Deseret was bounded on the north by the Oregon Territory, on the east by the Rocky Mountains, on the south by Mexico, and on the west by the Pacific Coast and the

## THE MORMON CORRIDOR..... THE STATE OF DESERET.....



THE MORMON CORRIDOR AND THE STATE OF DESERET